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The college careers of freshmen entering Fall 1960 day sessions at City, Brooklyn, Hunter and Queens Colleges of City University were studied to ascertain how many succeeded in attaining a college degree, how many dropped out, and why. Of the 7,848 freshmen admitted at the 4 colleges, 48% graduated within 4 years and 71% within 7 years from the college they entered as freshmen. Of those who had not graduated, 180 were still enrolled, 557 requested transfer to another college, 693 were dropped for poor scholarship or left college while on probation, and 886 withdrew for other reasons. City College had the highest percentage of students still enrolled and of those who left without scholarship difficulty, and Queens College had the highest percentage of transferees. The highest number of students dropped for poor scholarship or left while on probation were from Hunter College . A questionnaire followup of freshmen entering Brooklyn and Queens Colleges in 1960 but who left before graduation revealed that 79% of the students in this group received degrees within 7 years from colleges entered as freshmen or from other colleges, 3% were still enrolled and 1% planned to enroll. Entering freshmen in 1960 were among the top 15% of all high school graduates in New York City, yet about 1 in 5 were college dropouts. A pilot project is underway at City University to determine why such students withdraw from college and what can be done to help them. The report also compares data at City University with comparable data at 3 other public universities. (WM)

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H O W M A N Y G R A D U A T E

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ABSTRACT

A study was made of the graduation rate within seven years of freshmen who entered the senior colleges of the City University of New York in Fall 1960. Data were secured from the registrars of Brooklyn, City, Hunter and Queens Colleges and from a questionnaire follow-up of Brooklyn and Queens College students who left college before graduation. The findings for the freshmen entering in 1960 were compared with those of a somewhat similar study of freshmen who entered the senior colleges of the City University in Fall 1955. The data were also compared with reported graduation and attrition rates in other institutions.

Of the freshmen who entered the day sessions of Brooklyn, City, Hunter and Queens Colleges in Fall 1960, 71% graduated within seven years from the college they entered as freshmen. A follow-up of those who left Brooklyn and Queens Colleges before graduation indicated that an estimated 82% of the freshmen graduated within seven years from Brooklyn College and Queens College or from some other college or professional school. The above graduation rates are higher than those reported for other public universities, including those with academically selective admissions policies.

HOW MANY GRADUATE?

Purpose of the Study

With rapidly rising numbers of young people going to college, questions are increasingly being raised on the number who succeed in attaining a college degree, how many drop out and why. In an attempt to explore these questions, a previous study [1] followed the college careers of freshmen entering the senior colleges of the City University in Fall 1955. The present study does the same for day session freshmen who entered these colleges in 1960.

Data were secured from the college registrars on retention and attrition. The number and percentages of those who had graduated, those still enrolled, those who requested transfer when they left college and those who left college for poor scholarship or other reasons were analyzed.

In addition, a questionnaire follow-up was made of the students of this class at Brooklyn and Queens Colleges who left college before graduation. To secure a high degree of response, the questionnaires were brief and stamped return-addressed envelopes were enclosed. (A copy of the questionnaire is included in Appendix A).

Grateful acknowledgement is made to the registrars of Brooklyn, City, Hunter and Queens Colleges who provided the basic enrollment and retention figures for each college and to Bettina Kahn and Sophie Woronoff who helped assemble the data.

The questionnaires were unsigned, but were pre-coded so as to identify (a) those who had requested transfer to another college, (b) those who were dropped for poor scholarship or left while on probation, (c) those who left college for other reasons, (d) men and women in each of the above categories. This made possible analysis of the data by six sub-groups in each college.

Previous studies had found that many students who do not complete their undergraduate work in four years are not permanent college dropouts [1,2]. They return to college and get their degrees later. In a nation-wide sample of freshmen who enrolled in Fall 1950, Iffert[3] found that approximately 40% graduated within four years from the college they first entered and estimated that another 20% graduated later from the institution of original entry or from some other institution. Other studies discussed by Eckland [2] have reached similar conclusions concerning the substantial percentage of students who obtain degrees after the traditional four years. Hence, this study covered a seven-year period, from 1960 to 1967.

Two sets of findings are presented. One provides data on students who graduated from the college they originally entered as freshmen (p.6); the second, on those who graduated from the college they entered or from other colleges to which they later transferred (p. 13)

Findings - Group I

GRADUATION FROM BROOKLYN, CITY, HUNTER AND QUEENS COLLEGES OF FRESHMEN WHO ENTERED THESE COLLEGES IN 1960

TABLE I indicates the number of students and the graduation rate of freshmen who entered the day sessions of Brooklyn, City, Hunter and Queens Colleges of the City University in Fall 1960.

Of the 7848 freshmen admitted, 48% graduated within four years and 71% graduated within seven years from the college they entered as freshmen.

TABLE I

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

CITY COLLEGE, HUNTER COLLEGE, BROOKLYN COLLEGE, QUEENS COLLEGE

DAY SESSIONS

Of the 7845 Entering Freshmen in Fall 1960	Cumulative No. of Graduates	Cumulative % of Freshmen Who Were Graduated	
at the end of 3 years	34	.43	
at the end of 4 years	3751	47.79	
at the end of 5 years	5105	65.05	
at the end of 6 years	5431	69.30	
at the end of 7 years	5544	70.64	
Of those who were not graduated (from the college they entered)	No.*	%*	
	180	2.29%	were still enrolled in day or evening sessions
	557	7.10%	had requested transfer to another college
	693	8.83%	were dropped for poor scholarship or left college while on probation
	886	11.29%	withdrew for other reasons

* cf. footnote* TABLE II

TABLE II details the graduation and attrition rates of the 7868 City University freshmen by individual colleges. For those originally enrolled in liberal arts and education, the rate of graduation was 71.68%, ranging from 78.92% at City College to 62.13% at Hunter College. Of the engineering freshmen, 72.83% graduated; of the School of Business freshmen, 55.47% graduated.

The percentages of those still enrolled after seven years, those who requested transfer to another college and those who left college for reasons other than scholarship, were not too different from college to college. City College had a somewhat higher percentage than the other colleges of those still enrolled (3.29%) and of those who left college without scholarship difficulty (12.63%); Queens College had a slightly higher percentage in its transferee rate (8.47%).

However, the percentage of those dropped for poor scholarship or who left while on probation varied greatly, from 2.6% at Brooklyn College to 20.61% at Hunter College. Of 693 such students at all four colleges, 61% were dropped at Hunter College for poor scholarship reasons or left college while on probation.

TABLE III

GRADUATION AND ATTRITION FROM CITY, BROOKLYN, HUNTER AND QUEENS COLLEGES
FRESHMEN WHO ENTERED THE ANY SESSIONS OF THESE COLLEGES IN FALL 1963

	Total For Senior Colleges*		Total City College*		C I T Y C O L L E G E Engineering		Business		Lib. Arts & Educ.		BROOKLYN COLLEGE		HUNTER COLLEGE		QUEENS COLLEGE	
Minimum Composite Scores Scores Required For Admission to each College					(1027)		(1003)		(1070)		(Nov. 1968) (March 1970)		(1062)		(1038)	
	Cumulative Number	%	Cumulative Number	%	Cumulative Number	%	Cumulative Number	%	Cumulative Number	%	Cumulative Number	%	Cumulative Number	%	Cumulative Number	%
Number of Freshmen Admitted in 1963	7660		2203		570		540		1220		1971		2102		1975	
Graduated from College of Original Entry																
Thru June 1963	39	.63	13	.61	2	.28	1	.22	8	.65	0	.23	0	.09	0	.19
Thru June 1964	2751	47.79	693	35.10*	78	18.68*	214	37.23	611	60.84	1182	69.39	1013	68.56	692	54.97
Thru June 1965	3935	63.35	1019	62.30	138	35.49	293	51.29	867	73.31	1357	77.19	1243	78.97	1229	68.82
Thru June 1966	4811	69.21	1278	69.65	160	73.29	338	59.31	959	80.29	1522	79.62	1363	81.38	1371	75.19
Thru June 1967	5249	73.64	1437	72.19	183	72.89	369	62.97	971	79.92	1569	79.89	1373	82.13	1369	76.79
Total Graduated within 7 years	5249	73.64	1437	72.19	183	72.89	369	62.97	971	79.92	1569	79.89	1373	82.13	1369	76.79
% who Graduated	(Men	69.19)	(Men	71.21)	(Men	72.99)	(Men	64.23)	(Men	81.92)	(Men	77.97)	(Men	80.83)	(Men	70.33)
% who Graduated	(Women	78.13)	(Women	68.89)	(Women	62.34)	(Women	59.21)	(Women	78.79)	(Women	79.31)	(Women	83.38)	(Women	79.19)
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Still Enrolled after 7 years	148	2.29	89	3.29							30	2.10	29	1.69	29	1.97
Requested Transfer	337	5.19	161	6.21							103**	6.37	109	6.29	105	6.97
Left College	1273	20.12	448	16.62							258	15.89	420	24.21	210	15.79
a)Dropped for Poor Scholarship or Left College while on Probation	(593)	(9.03)	(128)	(5.10)							(48)	(2.80)	(403)(23.91)		(88)	(5.97)
b)Withdrew for Other Reasons	(680)	(10.29)	(302)(12.03)								(203)(12.29)		(107)(6.03)		(187)(10.95)	

* The total number of graduates and others reported by City College was 12 too many. This does not change the percentages appreciably (less than 0.1) as 12 of the students at Brooklyn College who requested transfers, 2 were reported as having received associate degrees or diplomas from Brooklyn College

** The School of Engineering requires 140 credits for a baccalaureate degree as compared with 120 credits required by the other colleges. Hence, those engineering freshmen were graduated within four years.

Comparison of 1960 vs. 1955 Freshmen
Retention Rates and Admission Requirements

The percentage of all entering day session freshmen in 1960 who graduated from the college they entered was 8% higher than for the comparable group who entered in 1955. For the 1960 freshmen, the graduation rate was 71%; for the 1955 freshmen, it was 63%.

Admission requirements for freshmen in the City University senior colleges were also higher in 1960 than they were in 1955.The minimum high school average required for admission was 85% in 1960, 82% in 1955; the minimum composite score of high school average and scholastic aptitude tests required by the colleges ranged from 160 to 171 in 1960, as compared with a range of 155 to 162 in 1955.

In the light of the higher academic requirements for admission in 1960 as compared with 1955, some increase in the graduation rates was to be expected. Summerskill [4] reports that in 10 of 11 studies in various colleges, dropouts had lower average grades in secondary school than did college graduates; in 16 of 19 investigations the average scholastic aptitude test score was also lower for dropouts than for graduates.

TABLE III indicates the minimum composite score for admission to each college in 1960 and in 1955 and the graduation rate from each college.

TABLE III

MINIMUM COMPOSITE SCORE FOR ENTERING FRESHMEN IN 1955 and IN 1960
BROOKLYN, CITY, HUNTER AND QUEENS COLLEGES
AND RATE OF GRADUATION FROM EACH COLLEGE

Institution	Fall 1955 Minimum Composite Score	% of Graduation Within 7 Years	Fall 1960 Minimum Composite Score	% of Graduation Within 7 Years
Brooklyn College	162	68.6	Men 169 Women 171	75.9
City College - Uptown (The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, The School of Education and The School of Engineering	162	65.0	167	76.6
Queens College	160	63.1	166	73.8
Hunter College	Men 158 Women 155	57. 1	162	62.1
City College - (The Baruch School of Business and Public Administration)	159	57.2	160	55.5
City University Senior Colleges	155 - 162	62.89	160 - 171	70.6

Graduation Rates from Professional Schools

The City College School of Engineering

The City College School of Engineering was known in 1960 as The City College School of Technology and admitted freshmen to programs in chemical, civil, electrical and mechanical engineering.

Since 145 credits are required for graduation from the engineering curricula (as compared with 128 for the liberal arts, education and business programs), relatively fewer of the engineering freshmen graduate within four years. Of the 773 who entered The School of Technology in 1960, 10.09% graduated from The City College within four years, 56.4% within five years, 70.24% within six years and 72.83% within seven years.

However, of the students who graduated, 242 transferred to and were graduated from the College of Liberal Arts, the School of Education and the Baruch School of Business of The City College. Thus, 42% of the engineering freshmen received a baccalaureate degree in engineering; 31% received a degree in other fields.

This pattern of transfer seems to be characteristic of engineering freshmen in other colleges. In a report of the American Society for Engineering Education [5], an average of

replies to questions on attrition by various engineering schools indicated that 48.7% of entering freshmen in 1959 received degrees in engineering within six years; that 22.7% received degrees in non-engineering fields; and that the percentage of engineering freshmen who transferred to and graduated from other divisions increased from 1950 to 1959.

At the Bernard M. Baruch School of Business and Public Administration, the rate of graduation from The City College of freshmen who entered in 1960 was 37.23% within four years and 55.4% within seven years. Of the 304 graduates, almost all (292) graduated from the Baruch School, the others from the College of Liberal Arts and Education.

Findings - Group II

Freshmen Who Entered Brooklyn and Queens Colleges in 1960 Rate of Graduation from College They Entered and From Other Colleges to Which They Later Transferred

As indicated previously, in addition to the data secured from the City University college registrars, questionnaires were sent to day session freshmen who entered Brooklyn and Queens Colleges in 1960 who left college before graduation. Those who had left college were asked:

1) whether they had earned a baccalaureate degree and if so, in what college and in what year;
2) if not, whether they were still enrolled or planned to enroll for a baccalaureate degree;
3) reason or reasons for leaving college;
4) present major occupation.

The results from the completed questionnaires of those who had left college, and from the data submitted by the registrars on those who had graduated from college indicate that:

Of the 3246 freshmen who entered the day sessions of Brooklyn and Queens Colleges in Fall 1960,

79.36%	(2576)	received baccalaureate degrees within 7 years from the college they entered as freshmen or reported receipt of baccalaureate or professional degrees from other colleges
3.05%	(99)	were still enrolled in college
3.48%	(113)	reported they had not received degrees and were not enrolled
6.22%	(202)	could not be located
7.61%	(247)	did not reply to the questionnaire
.27%	(9)	were in other categories

Table IV summarizes the data on degrees received and current enrollment of the freshmen who entered the day sessions of Brooklyn College and Queens College in Fall 1960, secured from the registrars and from replies to the questionnaires

TABLE IV

BROOKLYN COLLEGE AND QUEENS COLLEGE
GRADUATION OF 3246 FRESHMEN FROM THE COLLEGE ORIGINALLY ENTERED AND FROM OTHER COLLEGES

Of the 3246 Freshman Who Entered the Day Sessions of Brooklyn and Queens Colleges in Fall 1960, there were:	Reports by Registrars of Brooklyn&Queens Colleges and by Students Completing Questionnaires		Reports by Registrars of Brooklyn & Queens Colleges		Reports from Students Who Withdrew from Brooklyn and Queens Colleges to Whom Questionnaires were Sent	
	Cumulative Number	Percent	Cumulative Number	Percent	Cumulative Number	Percent
Graduated thru June 1964	1924	59.27%	1857	57.21%	67	2.06%
65	2405	74.09	2291	70.58	114	3.51
66	2520	77.63	2392	73.69	128	3.94
67	2576*	79.36	2432	74.92	144*	4.44
Total Graduated	2576*	79.36	2432	74.92	144*	4.44
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Still Enrolled	99	3.05%	67	2.06%	32	0.99%
No Degree Reported not enrolled	113	3.48			113	3.48
Not located	202	6.22				
No replies to questionnaire	247	7.61				
Others	9**	.27				

* includes 5 students who reported receiving degrees in 1968.
** includes 5 who received associate degrees or diplomas, two unaccounted for and two who died.

Those Who Left College Before Graduation

Seven hundred thirty seven questionnaires were mailed to all Fall 1960 freshmen who left Brooklyn and Queens Colleges before graduation*. About one-quarter (202) of the former freshmen could not be located; envelopes were returned by the post office marked "address unknown". The remaining 535 questionnaires are presumed to have been received.

More than half (53.8%) of the number of people presumed to have received the questionnaires replied.

In answer to the question as to whether they had received a degree, about half of the respondents (49.7%) reported they had received baccalaureate or professional degrees from other colleges and universities.

Difference in Group Response

Differences Between Colleges

Population mobility in students from Brooklyn College was greater than in students from Queens College. 31% of the Brooklyn College group could not be located at the last address given or at a forwarding address as compared with 23% of the Queens group.

Though the graduation rates from Brooklyn College and from Queens College were almost the same (Brooklyn 75.89%, Queens 73.76%), there was a marked difference in the percentage of reported degrees by students who left each college and earned degrees elsewhere; about 58% of the Queens respondents and 40% of the Brooklyn respondents

* Because of limited staff, the registrars of City and Hunter Colleges could not provide the names and addresses to make possible a follow-up of the 1389 students who withdrew from City and Hunter Colleges. From available data, it is estimated that the total graduation rate of City College freshmen would be similar to that of Brooklyn and Queens freshmen, the rate of graduation of Hunter College freshmen would be lower.

received degrees from other colleges. This difference may be due in part to the fact that a higher percentage of men from Queens replied to the questionnaire as compared with Brooklyn (64% Queens, 48% Brooklyn) and that a higher percentage of Queens transferees replied (66% Queens, 56% Brooklyn). As indicated hereafter, men were more likely to have received degrees at other colleges than women, and those who had requested transfers when they left college were more likely to have received degrees than those who left college for other reasons.

Differences Between Groups

Replies to the questionnaires came from:

61% of the transferees who received the questionnaires

43% of those dropped for poor scholarship or who left college while on probation

52% of those who left college for other reasons

Receipt of degrees was reported by:

91% of the transferees who replied

40% of those dropped for poor scholarship or who left college while on probation

13% of those who left college for other reasons

Differences in Responses from Men and Women

Though the graduation rates of men and women directly from Brooklyn and Queens Colleges were similar (74.6% Men, 75.1% Women), the questionnaire responses from men and women who had left college before graduation were quite different.

A higher percentage of the women who withdrew could not be located (31% women, 23% men); a lower percentage of women than of men who received questionnaires responded (52% women, 56% men); and of those who replied, a lower percentage of women reported receipt of degrees from other institutions (35% women, 67% men). More women graduated from the college they entered, more men who withdrew earned their degrees at other colleges.

TABLE V indicates the number of freshmen entering in Fall 1960 who withdrew from Brooklyn and Queens Colleges; the numbers and percentages of response to the questionnaires, and the numbers and percentages who reported receipt of baccalaureate or professional degrees, subdivided by men and women; those who had requested transfer when they left college; those dropped for poor scholarship or while on probation and those who left college for other reasons.

TABLE V

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES AND DEGREES RECEIVED FROM OTHER COLLEGES
BROOKLYN AND QUEENS COLLEGE FRESHMEN WHO WITHDREW BEFORE GRADUATION
BREAKDOWN BY SEX, TRANSFEREES, THOSE WITHDRAWING FOR POOR SCHOLARSHIP OR OTHER REASONS

	TOTAL						Requested Transfer						Poor Scholarship						Left College Other Reasons					
	Number			Percent			Number			Percent			Number			Percent			Number			Percent		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Number of Fall 1960 freshmen who withdrew before graduation to whom questionnaires were sent	313	424	737				152	111	263				72	51	123				89	262	351			
Number of students not located, envelopes returned address unknown	71	131	202				31	36	67				13	12	25				27	83	110			
Percentage of students not located				22.7%	30.9%	27.4%				20.4%	32.4%	25.5%				18.1%	23.5%	20.3%				30.3%	31.7%	31.3
Number presumed to have received questionnaire	242	293	535				121	75	196				59	39	98				62	179	241			
Percentage of those located who received questionnaire				77.3	69.1	72.6				79.6	67.6	74.5				81.9	76.5	79.7				69.7	68.3	68.7
Number who answered questionnaires	135	153	288				73	47	120				24	18	42				38	68	106			
Percentage of those receiving the questionnaire who responded				55.8	52.2	53.8				60.3	62.7	61.2				40.7	46.2	42.9				61.3	49.2	52.3
Number of respondents who reported receipt of Bacc. or first. degrees	98	53	151				68	41	109				10	6	17				9	8	17			
Percentage of respondents who reported receipt of Bacc. or professional degrees				68.7	36.6	49.7				93.1	87.2	90.8				58.8	33.3	40.5				23.7	9.1	13.8

Estimate of Total Graduation Rate

The graduation rates outlined in TABLE V for the various groups of respondents provide some basis for estimating by extrapolation the graduation rate of the 449 students for whom we have no data with respect to degrees earned.

It may be reasonable to assume that the graduation rates of those who could not be located or who did not reply to the questionnaire are not very different from the graduation rates of each of the six sub-groups for which we have data. Application of these percentages to the six sub-groups of 449 unknowns would provide an estimate of 188 degree recipients.

To provide a conservative extrapolation, we have reduced by 50% each of the sub-group percentages of those who did respond and have applied these halved ratios to the non-respondents and those who could not be located. This yields an estimate of 94 degree recipients, an estimated graduation rate of 21% for those who could not be located or did not respond, as compared with 49.7% for questionnaire respondents who reported they had received degrees.

The addition of the putative 94 degree students to the total of 2576 graduates reported in TABLE IV would indicate an estimated graduation rate within seven years of 82% of all Brooklyn and Queens College day session freshmen who entered college in Fall 1960.

Those Still Enrolled

Though the follow-up study was primarily intended to ascertain whether students who had left college had earned baccalaureate degrees elsewhere, additional information was obtained in three areas - current enrollment, reasons for leaving college and current major occupation.

If they had not received a degree, the students were asked to indicate on the questionnaire whether they were still enrolled in college as a matriculant or a non-matriculant; if not whether they planned to enroll. Of the 145 respondents who had not received a degree, 32 replied that they were still enrolled in other colleges, 39 planned to enroll, and 10 said "maybe". Of the 32 still enrolled, 21 were matriculants (11 men, 10 women), and 11 were non-matriculants. Of the 39 who planned to enroll, 25 were women, 12 men.

In sum, the data from the questionnaires and from the registrars of Brooklyn and Queens Colleges indicate that 99 students were still enrolled seven years after they first entered college as freshmen, (52 matriculants, 47 non-matriculants). It is probable that some of those still enrolled and some who plan to enroll will earn a baccalaureate degree, so that the eventual graduation rate of Brooklyn and Queens College freshmen is likely to be somewhat higher than the 82% previously estimated.

Reasons for Leaving College

Students who reported they had not earned a baccalaureate degree were asked to indicate the reasons for leaving college, in the order of their importance. Eleven possible reasons were listed in the questionnaire (cf Appendix A) with space for notation of other reasons.

Of the 145 responses in this category the reasons most frequently listed as first in importance were "lack of interest in college" (30 students), "marriage" and "maternity" (29 students) and "grades too low" (24 students). Inspection of all the reasons listed by respondents without reference to relative importance indicated that a group of reasons was often given. For example, of 100 women respondents without degrees, 29 listed "marriage" with one or more other reasons, chiefly "moving outside the city", "lack of interest in college" or "grades too low"; only eight listed "marriage" as the sole reason.

Except for "marriage" (listed by 38 women, 5 men), "military" (11 men), and "moving outside the city" (15 women, 1 man), the percentages of men and women listing various reasons for leaving college were not too different. Among reasons other than those listed in the questionnaire that were mentioned were "lack of teacher interest" and "poor teaching".

The reasons given for leaving college obviously raise questions. Entering freshmen in Fall 1960 were among the top 15% of all high school graduates in the city. Despite this about one in five were dropouts from college. The major reasons were not financial. The men who left college most often gave "lack of interest in college" and "grades too low" as reasons; "marriage" and "lack of interest in college" led the list given by women. What led to lack of interest and poor grades? Why did many women who were housewives drop out while others continued their education? Though some college students do not complete work for a degree and find satisfactory life careers nonetheless, others have a sense of failure when they leave and do not develop their potential for service to themselves or to the larger community.

A pilot project is now in progress within the City University of New York to ascertain through more intensive investigation why such students withdraw from college and what can or should be done to encourage or help them. With the cooperation of institutional research and student counselling staffs, questionnaires and interviewing procedures have been developed to seek underlying causes of student withdrawal and possible constructive measures that may be undertaken.

OCCUPATIONS

The fourth item on the questionnaire asked students who had withdrawn from Brooklyn and Queens Colleges to indicate their major occupation.

Most of the men who reported receipt of baccalaureate or equivalent degrees were in the professions as engineers, dentists, lawyers, etc. or were graduate or professional school students. Relatively few were in business-related areas. The largest number of men who did not receive baccalaureate degrees reported that they were technicians in electronics, engineering and data processing. Only one of the 135 male respondents reported that he was unemployed.

Of the 53 women who reported they had earned a degree, 24 stated they were teachers, and ten housewives. A majority (60) of the 100 women who had not received degrees reported that they were housewives. The only other occupation reported by more than ten non-degree women were secretary and executive secretary, including one who said she was assistant to the president of a major computer leasing firm (net worth $70 million).

A survey by the Brooklyn College Alumni Association indicates that the major occupations reported by 12,000 alumni were teaching and college teaching, the professions (lawyers, accountants, doctors, dentists), housewives and students. These are similar to the major occupations reported by the respondents to our questionnaire who withdrew from Brooklyn and Queens Colleges and received degrees elsewhere.

Appendix B lists the occupations reported by the 288 respondents to this question and the number in each occupation.

Retention and Attrition in Other Institutions

There are difficulties in comparing graduation and attrition rates of different colleges and universities because of differences in the length of time through which the students' careers are followed, in the definitions and methods used in various studies, and in the standards of admission and retention of students. Most reports on graduation rates cover a four-year period and as this and other studies have indicated, a large percentage of students take more than four years to complete their work for a baccalaureate degree. Many reports include graduation rates only from the college of entry and do not provide data on students who have left college and transferred to other institutions. Finally, since colleges with selective admissions requirements for freshmen are more likely to have higher graduation rates than open door colleges, caution is necessary when comparisons are made with other institutions.

Though there are not many studies with comparable data, several public universities have published reports on retention and attrition which cover a longer period than the usual four years and which include a follow-up on those who left college. TABLE VI includes a summary of graduation-rate data from four such studies - the City University of New York, University of California(Berkeley), the University of Wisconsin and the University of Illinois, all of which report graduation rates higher than the average for other public universities.

TABLE VI

GRADUATION RATES REPORTED FOR THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (BERKELEY), UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Institution	Freshmen Entering in Year	Number of Entering Freshmen	Rate of Graduation From College of Original Entry	Rate of Graduation From College of Original Entry and Other Colleges	
			Known From College Records	Known from College Records and Responses to Questionnaires	Estimated for Total Freshman Class
CUNY 4 Year Colleges	1955	5556	62.89% within 7 yrs.	No data available	
	1960	7848	70.64% within 7 yrs.	" "	
CUNY Brooklyn and Queens Colleges	1960	3246	74.92% within 7 yrs.	79.32% within 7 yrs.	82% within 7 yrs.
University of California, Berkeley [6]	1955	2126	51% within 7 yrs.	52% within 10 yrs.	68% within 10 yrs.
	1960	3298	54% within 7 yrs.	65% within 6 yrs. or later	71% within 7 yrs.
University of Wisconsin [7]	1958	2817	49.6% within 7 yrs.	58.7% within 7 yrs.	66% within 7 yrs.
University of Illinois [8]	1952	1332	46.9% within 10 yrs. male students only	61.2% within 10 yrs.	69% within 10 yrs.

In Summary

At BROOKLYN, CITY, HUNTER AND QUEENS COLLEGES of the CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK:

48% of the freshmen who entered in Fall 1960 graduated within four years from the college they first entered

71% graduated within seven years

The graduation rate for the Fall 1960 freshmen was 8% higher than for freshmen who entered in 1955.

AT BROOKLYN AND QUEENS COLLEGES:

79% received baccalaureate degrees within seven years from the college they first entered or reported receipt of baccalaureate or professional degrees from other colleges.

An extrapolation which includes those not located and non-respondents leads us to estimate that a total of

82% of all Fall 1960 Brooklyn and Queens College freshmen received baccalaureate or professional degrees within seven years;

3% were still enrolled and 1% planned to enroll; hence the eventual graduation rate may be somewhat higher.

At Brooklyn and Queens Colleges (Continued):

The percentages of men and women who graduated directly from Brooklyn and Queens Colleges were similar. However, only half as many women as men who withdrew reported receipt of degrees from other institutions.

The major reasons listed for leaving college were "lack of interest", "marriage" and "maternity", "grades too low". Often a combination of these reasons was given.

At the City University of New York and three other public universities for which comparable data were reported.

Graduation rates within seven years from the college of original entry were:

47% at the University of Illinois (male students, grad. within 10 yrs.)

50% at the University of Wisconsin

54% at the University of California (Berkeley)

71% at the City University of New York

Estimated graduation rates for the total freshman class from the first college entered or from other institutions were:

69% for the University of Illinois (male students)

66% for the University of Wisconsin

71% for the University of California (Berkeley)

82% for Brooklyn and Queens Colleges, the City University of New York

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APPENDIX A

The City University of New York

535 East Eightieth Street
New York, New York 10021

Coordinator of Institutional Research

March 1968

To You Who Were Enrolled As A Freshman in Queens College

We would appreciate your help in answering the attached questions. As part of a study of the colleges of The City University of New York, we are interested in knowing what happened to the freshman class of 1960 during the past seven or eight years.

All answers will be tabulated on a group basis, with no personal identification. Hence you need not sign your name unless you wish to do so. A self-addressed postage paid envelope is attached for your convenience.

Please don't put the questionnaire aside. It will take only two minutes to answer. Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely yours,

Pearl Max

Mrs. Pearl Max
Coordinator of
Institutional
Research

PM:sw
enc.

The City University of New York

535 East Eightieth Street
New York, New York 10021

Coordinator of Institutional Research

QUEENS COLLEGE

3/68

I(a) Did you earn a baccalaureate degree? Yes ___ No ___

(b) If the answer to (a) is yes
At what college? _____ College
In what year? _____ Year

II If you did not earn a baccalaureate degree
(a) Are you still enrolled as a matriculant? Yes ___ No ___
Or as a non-matriculated student? Yes ___ No ___

(b) If you are not enrolled as a matriculant, do you plan to re-enroll for a baccalaureate degree? Yes ___ No ___

III If you did not earn a baccalaureate degree, why did you leave Queens College (If you have more than one reason, please mark the most important one (1), the next one (2), etc.

a ___ illness (self)
b ___ illness (family)
c ___ moved outside city
d ___ lack of interest in college
e ___ grades too low
f ___ financial
g ___ marriage
h ___ maternity
i ___ preferred a job
j ___ military (drafted)
k ___ military (enlisted)
Other, specify please

_____
_____

IV What is your present major occupation?

_____
_____
_____

OCCUPATIONS IN 1967 OF FRESHMEN ENTERING IN 1960 WHO WITHDREW BEFORE GRADUATION FROM BROOKLYN AND QUEENS COLLEGES

Men Who Reported Receipt of Degrees From Other Colleges

	No.		No.
Engineers and Architects	24	U.S. Army	2
Doctors, Dentists, Lawyers	15	Real Estate Manager, Systems Analyst, Advertisement Media Buyer	3
Graduate or Professional School Students	15		
Teachers	10	Hospital administrator, industrial pharmacist, medical service representative, musician, optometrist, patent examiner, reporter, technical and scientific writer (one each)	8
Accountants	4		
Programmers	3		
Social Workers	2	No reply to this question	2
Personnel Work	2		
Total	90		

Men Who Had Not Received Degrees

	No.		No.
Technicians, draftsmen, etc.	13	Accounts receivable specialist (IBM), editor, labor relations manager, manager N.Y. Telephone Company, military service, policeman, project engineer, stock brokerage clerk, systems analyst, traffic rate clerk, vocational school electronics instructor (one each)	11
Students	5		
Sales and merchandising	5		
Accounting, musician, postal employee, self-employed, truck driver (two each)	10	Unemployed	1
Total	45		

OCCUPATIONS (Continued)

Women Who Reported Receipt of Degrees From Other Colleges

	No.		No.
Teachers	24	Case workers, programmers, research and laboratory assistants (two each)	6
Housewives	10		
Occupational, speech and physical therapists	3	Assistant director food services, engineer, executive secretary, insurance specialist, lawyer, nurse, systems analyst (one each)	7
Graduate students	3		
Total	53		

Women Who Had Not Received Degrees

	No.		No.
Housewives (includes 4 housewives and students)	60	Bookkeepers	4
Executive secretaries and secretaries	19	Actuarial assistant, business librarian, code clerk, dental assistant, department head customers relations, office manager, personnel manager, photographer, sales, store owner, teacher physical education (one each)	11
Airline stewardesses or employees	3		
Students	3		
Total	100		